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The conception of law pervading it is brought over from the natural sciences. The idea of progress is analyzed at length, but its stages are fixed according to the famous formula which Comte borrowed from St. Simon. Imperfect knowledge of history made the generalizations of Comte, as well as those of Cousin, misleading and unsatisfactory.

It is not strange, then, that in these later years a critical school has arisen, whose members have rejected *a priori* reasoning concerning history, and have based their conclusions on the most thorough study of the facts. Cournot and Renouvier are the leading representatives of this tendency in France, and only by the labors of such as they, extended over a long period of time, can the foundation be laid on which something like a satisfactory philosophy of history can be built. That, at least, is the impression which the reviewer has drawn from Professor Flint's book. It is a work abounding in thorough and suggestive criticism of historians as well as philosophers, a monument of learning and research. To the ordinary reader its account of the development of historiography is likely to prove its most valuable feature.

H. L. OSGOOD.

*Cases and Opinions on International Law.* With notes and a Syllabus. By FREEMAN SNOW, Ph.D. Boston, The Boston Book Co., 1893. — 586 pp.

*Treaties and Topics in American Diplomacy.* By FREEMAN SNOW, Ph.D. Boston, The Boston Book Co., 1894. — 515 pp.

These two volumes constitute an interesting and valuable addition to the works specially designed for the use of persons pursuing the study of international law and diplomacy. We have had various students' editions of treatises on those subjects, and we have had manuals specially prepared for the use of students; but the two volumes now before us embody the first attempt to furnish the student, in convenient form, with documentary material to work upon.

While I take pleasure in expressing an unhesitatingly favorable opinion of the usefulness of these volumes, I must admit that when, after reading the preface to the *Cases on International Law*, I first examined what followed, I felt a sense of disappointment. In the preface the author states that the object of the compilation is to

employ, in the teaching of international law, the "case system" introduced into the Harvard Law School a score of years ago by Professor Langdell.

With this view [says the author] it has been the almost invariable rule to give the decisions of the courts in the exact language of the judges, though necessarily leaving out, in some cases, the less pertinent parts. In this respect this volume differs radically from Mr. Pitt Cobbett's excellent work on the same subject.

Mr. Pitt Cobbett follows the plan of summarizing cases in his own language, with a view to bring out the points decided by them. In the work of Dr. Snow, there are upwards of two hundred "cases and opinions." Of these, about a hundred and twenty-five consist of extracts from law cases, and the rest of extracts from text-writers or of summaries of cases judicially or diplomatically treated. It is true that many of the extracts from text-writers, as well as many of the summaries, relate to cases, either diplomatic or judicial; but to give some text-writer's statement of a case, or one's own summary of it, does not constitute a radical departure from Mr. Cobbett's plan. Nor can it be maintained that to give enough of the opinion of a judge to disclose the point decided by him, is an application of the inductive method of teaching, as illustrated by the "case system." A judge's statement of a principle may be good or bad, according to his ability. The principle may be better stated by some text-writer. It is in the study of the whole case, and the deduction of what was decided from the facts and the opinion, that the student acquires the faculty and the habit of legal ratiocination.

Apart, however, from this phase of the matter, there is an undoubted advantage in the use of concrete illustrations of principles, which is, I think, generally recognized; and this advantage is secured whatever may be the form in which the illustration is given. For this reason alone I should consider the present collection of cases and opinions a valuable publication. But I desire to express my special appreciation of the "syllabus," in which the author has given an admirable list of references to treatises as well as to judicial reports. In this relation Dr. Snow pertinently observes:

It is indeed the justly celebrated authors of treatises on international law who have analyzed and systematized the subject, and who have reduced it to a science. A collection of cases and opinions, moreover, must necessarily leave many gaps, to be filled by means of text-books or lectures. And it is the purpose of the syllabus — a leading feature of this book —

to make available the opinions of a number of the most eminent writers, of different countries, by grouping references to their works under specific heads.

In the *Treaties and Topics in American Diplomacy* we have a collection of our more important treaties and conventions, given textually or summarized, together with notes upon them, and systematic discussions of leading topics, such as the Monroe Doctrine, the Fisheries Question and the Behring Sea controversy. In these discussions the author has exhibited not only careful and thorough study of his subjects, but candor and impartiality in his treatment of them. His aim has been not to advocate theories and establish conclusions, so much as to present full and frank statements for the student's enlightenment.

J. B. MOORE.

*Municipal Government in Great Britain.* By ALBERT SHAW.

New York, The Century Co., 1895. — viii, 385 pp.

*The Englishman at Home : His Responsibilities and Privileges.*

By EDWARD PORRITT. New York, Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., 1893. — xiv, 379 pp.

Mr. Shaw's magazine articles in the field of municipal government in Great Britain have attracted so much attention that his book will be welcomed by all who are interested in municipal problems. This book, however, is much more than a mere collection of fugitive essays. It contains much work which has not been previously published, and those chapters which have drawn considerably upon Mr. Shaw's former publications have been rewritten. The volume, therefore, gives a good description of municipal government in Great Britain at the present time.

In the introductory chapter on the growth and problems of modern cities, attention is called to the fact that the rapid development of municipal life is not by any means peculiar to this country, as we are often apt to suppose. The same movement is shown to be characteristic of Europe, and particularly of England. The massing of population in large cities is a sociological fact whose existence cannot be denied, and the tendency at the present time is towards municipal rather than rural life. Mr. Shaw's book is not intended, however, as anything more than a description of municipal conditions in Great Britain. He disclaims in his preface the intention to derive any particular lesson other than that of a warning for those in charge